

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
  
a thermal interface comprising a plurality of thermally conductive malleable fibers arranged in a pattern, the fibers of the pattern in contact with each other when compressed between a first surface and a second surface, forming a substantially continuous path among the fibers, to transfer heat between the first and second surfaces.
  
3. (Previously Amended) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the fibers include one of the following: a metal, a metal compound, and a metal alloy.
  
4. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the fibers are a non-metal.
  
5. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 4, wherein the non-metal includes carbon or graphite.
  
6. (Previously Amended) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, further comprising:

Appl. No. 09/751,261

Amdt. dated 07/07/2003

Reply to Office action of May 7, 2003

an adhesive applied to the fibers, the adhesive affixing the fibers in position on the first surface until the fibers are compressed against the first surface.

7. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a random pattern.

8. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a stacked pattern.

9. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a woven pattern.

10. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

positioning a plurality of thermally conductive malleable fibers, the fibers being in a pattern, between a first surface and a second surface; and

compressing the plurality of malleable fibers between the first and second surfaces, the compression ~~de~~conforming the fibers into contact with each other and into contact with the first surface and second surface, forming a substantially continuous path among the fibers, to transfer heat between the first and second surfaces.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the first surface is a thermal plate and wherein the second surface is a heat source.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the pattern includes a random pattern.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the pattern includes a stacked pattern.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the pattern includes a woven pattern.
15. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:  
encompassing the fibers in a thermal medium, the thermal medium deforming to fill irregularities when compressed against a first surface.
16. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein the fibers include one of the following: a metal, a metal compound, and a metal alloy.
17. The method of Claim 10, wherein the fibers are a non-metal.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the non-metal includes carbon or graphite.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

applying an adhesive to the fibers to affix the fibers in position on the first surface until the fibers are compressed against the first surface.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of thermally conductive malleable fibers defining a pattern positioned against a first surface; and

means ~~for~~ to transfer heat between the first surface and a second surface, the means including compressing the malleable fibers into contact with each other and with said first surface and said second surface, to form a substantially continuous path among the fibers.

21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the first surface is a thermal plate and wherein the second surface is a heat source.

22. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the fibers are encompassed in a thermal medium, the thermal medium deforming to fill irregularities when the fibers are compressed against the first surface.

23. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the fibers include one of the following: a metal, a metal compound, and a metal alloy.
24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the fibers are a non-metal.
25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the non-metal includes carbon or graphite.
26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pattern includes a random pattern.
27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pattern includes a stacked pattern.
28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pattern includes a woven pattern.